



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds National
Monument

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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

For Immediate Release

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Lava Beds Offers Early Summer Interpretive Programming; Captain Jacks Stronghold to Open Memorial Day Weekend

Superintendent Dave Kruse is pleased to announce early summer interpretive programming at Lava Beds. Guided walks, cave tours, and campfire programs in the campground amphitheater will be offered each weekend through June 7th.

Daily programming begins on Friday, June 12th as the school year comes to a close. The Monument's Visitor Center will also be open extended hours from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM beginning Memorial Day weekend to better serve the needs of families visiting in summer.

Ranger guided walks of Captain Jacks Stronghold are among the available programs each Saturday and Sunday. When weather permits, a tour of the 1/2-mile long inner loop departs from the Stronghold parking lot at 3:00 PM. Visitors will view historical resources revealed by the August 2008 Jack Fire as well as see how the area's vegetation has grown back this spring.

Captain Jacks Stronghold is scheduled to re-open to self-guided visitation on Friday, May 22nd.

Due to high public demand, Lava Beds staff will offer two guided cave tours on most weekend days throughout the summer, meeting at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM. Tours range in difficulty from easy walks to more challenging excursions.

Whether participating in a tour or caving on your own, visitors should come prepared to "Cave Safely, Cave Softly" with long pants, long-sleeved shirts, closed-toed shoes, head protection, and a flashlight for each person. Flashlights may be borrowed from the Visitor Center during open hours, and hardhats are available for purchase. Those interested in trying out difficult caves should also bring kneepads and sturdy gloves.

A Fern Cave tour is also offered each Saturday from May 16th through October 31st. Reservations are accepted for six people per tour up to three weeks in advance, and are always in high demand. Due to the sensitive cultural and ecological nature of this cave, tour participants must be at least 12 years of age and able to negotiate a ladder and slippery floor. Reservations are accepted by phone or in person at the Visitor Center during open hours only.

Evening slide shows presented in the amphitheater of the Indian Well Campground take a more in-depth look at the monument's rich natural and cultural history. 43 individual campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and typically fill up on the Saturday of a holiday weekend.

Additional interpretive walks and talks will be offered at 11:30 AM on some summer mornings. Lava Beds' Junior Ranger and Junior Firefighter programs are also available for young people from 5 to 13 years of age.

A weekly schedule of interpretive program topics and locations is available at the Lava Beds Visitor Center, on bulletin boards throughout the monument, or by calling the Visitor Center at 530-667-8113. More information is always available on the monument's website at www.nps.gov/labe. Daily ranger guided programs will be offered through Labor Day.

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